

Message Text

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14
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

/042 W

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R 301300Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL IZMIR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1666
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652 N/A; TAGS: PINT, ELAB, TU

SUBJECT: RPP COMMENT ON ALIAGA LABOR DISPUTE

REF: IZMIR 303

1. WE ASKED EKREM BULGUN IZMIR RPP PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT, ON SEPT. 29 RE STATEMENTS IN IZMIR PRESS BY RPP LEADERS, ESPECIALLY DEPSEC GEN TOPUZ, IN SUPPORT OF DISK "RESISTANCE" (REFTEL). BULGUN CURSED THE "RIGHTIST PRESS" FOR ITS ALLEGED MISREPRESENTATIONS AND DENIED THAT HE OR TOPUZ HAD EXPRESSED VIEWS AS APPEARED IN IZMIR DAILIES YENI ASIR AND EKSPRES. BULGUN TOLD US RPP PRIVATELY REGARDED DISK "RESISTANCE" AS ILLEGAL AND

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HURTFUL TO THE COUNTRY. A SEVERAL HOUR PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION WOULD HAVE HAD RPP SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY SINCE RPP ACTIVELY OPPOSED PASSAGE OF STATE SECURITY COURTS LAW, BUT DISK WENT TOO FAR. (THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION, HOWEVER, BULGUN TREATED LABOR DISPUTE IN ANKARA AS SEPARATE, ESSENTIALLY JUSTIFIED PROTEST BY UNPAID MUNICIPAL WORKERS.)

2. BULGUN TOOK SPECIAL PAINS TO ASSURE US THAT TOPUZ DID NOT MAKE THREAT THAT STUDENTS WOULD CARRY FORWARD DISK RESISTANCE WHEN UNIVERSITIES REOPEN. TOPUZ, ACCORDING TO BULGUN, IN FACT

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VOICED FEAR THAT DISK'S ACTIVISM MIGHT SERVE AS "BAD EXAMPLE"

THAT COULD INSPIRE STUDENTS TO "IMITATE THESE ACTIVITIES AND BECOME ANOTHER SOURCE OF UNEASINESS IN THE COUNTRY." BULGUN ALSO ASSERTED THAT TOPUZ IN HIS MEETING WITH DISMISSED ALIAGA WORKER REPS IN FACT TOLD THEM--IN RESPONSE TO THEIR PLEA THAT RPP HELP THEM RECOVER THEIR JOBS--THAT THEY HAD GONE TOO FAR IN THEIR "RESISTANCE." HE COULD MAKE NO PROMISES TO THEM OTHER THAN HE WOULD TALK WITH REFINERY DIRECTOR IN THEIR BEHALF.

3. CLAIMING TO SPEAK FOR HIMSELF, BULGUN VOLUNTEERED HE BELIEVED RPP "NATIONAL LEADERSHIP" WAS MISTAKEN IN ENTERING INTO AN ALLIANCE WITH DISK LEADERS, SOME OF WHOM HE REGARDED AS

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VIRTUAL IF NOT REAL COMMUNISTS, ESPECIALLY INASMUCH AS THIS RELATIONSHIP PREVENTED EFFECTIVE ALLIANCE WITH TURK-IS.

4. IN ABSENCE OF A PUBLISHED DENIAL OF REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO TOPUZ, WE RESERVE JUDGMENT CONCERNING ACTUAL CONTENT OF TOPUZ'S REMARKS. NONETHELESS, WE REGARD BULGUN'S VERSION AS INDICATIVE OF HIS ACTUAL THINKING AND REPRESENTATIVE OF A SUBSTANTIAL MODERATE ELEMENT IN THE RPP.

MOFFETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, LABOR STRIKES, LABOR DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976IZMIR00305
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760369-0975
From: IZMIR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976094/aaaaacme.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 IZMIR 303
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RPP COMMENT ON ALIAGA LABOR DISPUTE
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, TU, (BULGUN, EKREM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006